



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Celilo Village

Redevelopment Newsletter

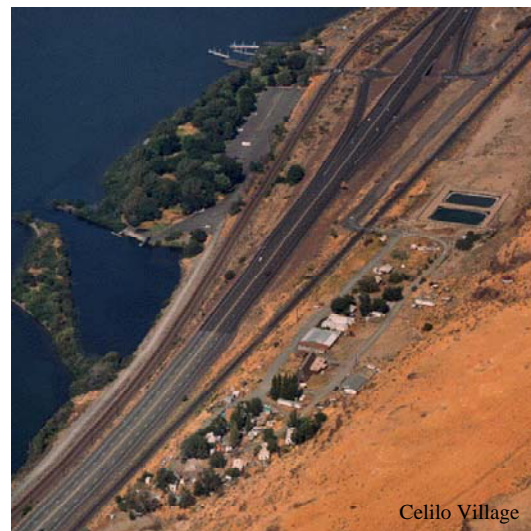
Volume II, Number 2

March 2005

Redevelopment history

For millennia, the Celilo area has served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. Celilo Village currently supports 13 dwellings and about 50 people, but inadequate sanitary and water systems have caused public health and safety problems that concern federal, tribal, state and local health officials. To resolve these problems, the tribes formally requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. Celilo Village Redevelopment was authorized by Pres. George W. Bush on March 2, 2004, as part of Public Law 108-204, and provides for the reconstruction of the village and associated structures and systems, repairs to the longhouse, and operation and maintenance of the rebuilt village.

The Corps continues to work with the tribes, agencies, residents and other stakeholders to make redevelopment a reality. The Corps is scheduling and facilitating monthly meetings with the reconstituted Wyam Board.



Longhouse renovation

The Corps would like to extend a special thanks to Wyam Board members Ron Suppah and Reubin Henry, the Warm Springs Tribal Council, and the Warm Springs Forest Products staff who have pulled together the donation of the new poles, decking and material for the Celilo Longhouse. Their efforts to support Celilo Village redevelopment are certainly appreciated by all. The donated poles were delivered to Celilo Village on Monday, February 21, and the donated decking was delivered on Monday, February 28. The Corps is modifying the design/construction contract to incorporate the new poles and decking into the final design of the longhouse structure. We have advised Colville Tribal Services of our intent to modify the contract and directed them to work with the Celilo Village residents to allow for an appropriate ceremony before removal of the existing Longhouse structure.

The following series of pictures captures earlier progress on Longhouse construction.



Demolition of the existing kitchen structure, and removal of kitchen appliances.



Longhouse following complete demolition and removal of existing kitchen.



Excavation work in preparation of new kitchen foundation.



Preparing to lay concrete.



New foundation for the kitchen is poured.

On March 7, the Longhouse structure itself was demolished and removed, following a series of ceremonies performed by residents and tribal members. Construction of the new kitchen has moved forward rapidly. Both the exterior and interior walls are up, the roof is on, and the shingles will be added

shortly. The construction team is currently roughing out the interior plumbing and electrical elements. Photos of these steps will be included in next month’s newsletter.

Celilo Village Redevelopment Documentary_____

Mr. Dan Miller, a professor at the University of Oregon, has approached the Corps about producing and filming a documentary on the redevelopment of Celilo Village. The documentary would present an excellent opportunity to inform a larger audience about the project, and would examine the history of Celilo and possibilities for the future. No Celilo Village Redevelopment project funds would be used for producing the film. At their February meeting, the Wyam Board supported having Mr. Miller attend a future meeting to discuss his intent and ideas with the board.

Job Fair_____

Colville Tribal Services held a job fair on January 28 at The Dalles Shilo Inn to seek applicants to fill construction positions on the Celilo Village Redevelopment project. Six subcontractors participated, and there were over seventy applicants. The Corps continues to work with the contractors to hire qualified workers from both the tribes and the village for the construction teams.

Community Code and Guidebook Development_____

Mr. Roger Wagoner of *Berryman & Henigar* provided an update on community code and guidebook development at the February Wyam Board meeting. The previous day, Yakama, Umatilla, and Warm Springs tribal planning staff members met with Mr. Wagoner and the Corps to discuss the first cut of the code’s Building and Grounds section. Ms. Delilah Heemsah, an elected Wyam Board representative from Celilo Village, requested and was provided with copies of the Buildings and Grounds section to pass out among Celilo Village residents for review and comment.

Upcoming activities_____

- **Thursday, March 17.** The next scheduled Wyam Board meeting will be held in the classroom at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, Oregon from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting is open to the public and will provide an update on the status of the longhouse construction and cover other topics related to Celilo Village redevelopment.

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is designed to provide information about Celilo Village Redevelopment. It is published monthly by the Celilo Village Redevelopment Project Delivery Team of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or by email at george.j.miller@usace.army.mil. For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jeremy Weber at (503) 808-4735 or by email at jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil.

Commander.....Col. Richard W. Hobernicht
Project Manager.....George Miller
Editor and Community Planner.....Jeremy Weber